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Last Relic of Joyous Days of
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the Bank of France. The closing of
Vefours merely adds another instance
to the steadily growing list of historic
sites which are being occupied by
financial firms.

Vefours originated in 1750, when it
was known as the Cafe des Chartres,
and for more than a century it pro-
vided the gathering place for generals,
financiers, wealthy strangers and
gourmets of all nationalities. It was
here that M. de la Fayette, Berchoux
and Murat held their gastronomic par-
ties, calling the chef to their tables
and directing personally the culinary
experiments which were to be pre-
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With this disappearance of the last
witness of the gastronomic reputation
of the Palais Royal, Paris is losing
recalling the gradual disappearance of
dozens of smaller restaurants which
grew up and thrived for various periods
under the shelter of Vefours' reputa-
tion. No longer can one find the sign of
the "Trois Freres," where Napoleon
dined with Barras and discussed over
provincial dishes the political problems
of France, nor is there any trace of the
famous story of "Fevrier," when Le
Folletier was assassinated during the fa-
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Even the memory of the Galerie Eu-
gène has faded away, although in its
hall it was once possible to dine
with wine for less than two francs,
obtaining epicurean delicacies which in
a Paris restaurant today would cost
not less than 100 francs.

The inevitable trend of the restaura-
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aroused the sympathy of lovers of what
was once the most charming quarter
of Paris. Although the Palais Royal
and its adjacent buildings have been
filled by small day camps occupied by
families of very moderate income, with
here and there a discreetly elite modiste
appealing to foreign buyers, there is an
all pervading sense of desolation as one
walks beneath the shady arcades which
once sheltered happy throngs of the
highest social lights of Paris life. One
is forced to meditate, "This once was
Paris. To-day it is but the sepulchre of
a former greatness."

The suggestion is being advanced that
the interiors of the Palais Royal be
modernized and the ancient spirit of the
district revived, but France's ex-
tremes are too heavy for such an en-
deavor, and it seems certain that the
Palais, with its gardens, playgrounds
and fountains, is destined to lose its
atmosphere of history and romance,
following the invasion of the Business where
Pleasure once prevailed.

TOMBSTONE POEMS WILL BE CENSORED

English Town Finds That
Graveyard Limericks Are Be-
coming Too Frivolous.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN and
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LONDON, Aug. 18.—Leighton Buzzard
is proud of its municipal cemetery to
allow it to become the butt of the face-
tious. It has instructed the town clerk
to act as an official censor of epitaphs
and given him full power to veto any
unsatisfactory wording suggested for the
generations of the future.

In making their decision the local
council expressed the view that there
had been too much levity and ignorance
in the past in the matter of epitaphs
and spelling and that some of the local ep-
itaphs ought never to have been passed
by either the church authorities or the
maker of the memorials. In the sur-
rounding churchyards were inscriptions
that ranged from the solemnly sancti-
monious to the utterly frivolous.

In the neighboring churchyard at Bur-
lington the following can be traced on a
tombstone:

Here lies the body of Mary Ann Lowder,
the most beautiful girl in the parish.
Called from this world to her heavenly rest,
she should have waited till it pleased.

Among the queer grammatical errors
in the burial grounds of Leighton Buzzard
is the following in St. Martin's
churchyard: "Sacred to the memory of
John Brown and his wife and five chil-
dren, all of whom passed away in in-
fancy."

The position of official censor of ep-
itaphs is unlikely to prove a secure in
the view of the Council, for they have
appointed the chairman of the burial
board as his assistant.

In signifying his assent to undertake
the duties of the office the chairman re-
called an epitaph in Linsdale church-
yard which he had learned as a boy,
reading:

Our life is but a winter's day,
Hence to dinner stay and are full fed,
The oldest man but stout and goes to bed,
Large is his debt who lingers out the day,
Who goes the soonest has the least to pay.

The town clerk is expected soon to
appear for expert advice in deciding
upon what is fitting in graveyard limer-
icks.

PRAGUE TO HAVE AERO DERBY.

All Nations Expected to Be Repre-
sented at Big Event.

PRAGUE, Aug. 28.—The Czechoslovak
Aero Club is speeding up the prepara-
tions for a great aero derby and ex-
position which will take place at Prague
during the month of September.

This event will be under the auspices
of President Masaryk. A large attend-
ance is expected from all countries.
Czechoslovakia situated in the heart of
Europe, possesses a prominent position
on all aerial routes, some of which have
already been established through Prague.

BRITAIN MUST SOLVE OIL STOCK PROBLEM

Huge Storage Tank Nearly
Full; Cannot Sell.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN and
NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—The British Gov-
ernment will have to seriously consider
the question of the disposal of native oil
within the next few days. The oil tank
at Hardstoft, Derby, into which oil from
what is still the only productive well in
England has flowed for a year, will soon
be full, and the oil will have to be re-
moved.

The owner of the land on which the
boring took place is Lord Harrington,
and his representatives have warned
the Government that if the Government
sells any of the oil action will at once
be taken in the courts.

The boring was started under the
powers conferred on the Government by
the Defense of the Realm act, but these
do not give the Government a clear title
to the oil produced, and as nobody
wishes to see it run to waste the Cab-
inet will have to decide what shall be
done.

Last session the Government intro-
duced a bill to deal with minerals and
oil as apart from surface rights to land,
but the opposition was too strong and
the bill had to be withdrawn. It must
now deal with the matter or allow its
expenditure in drilling the well to re-
main as an economic loss, waiving claim
to all British oil deposits.

LONDON TO HAVE MUNICIPAL DRAMA

Boroughs Adopt Plan of Fur-
nishing Theatrical and Oper-
atic Productions.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN and
NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—Residents of Lon-
don and Greater London are to have the
opportunity of attending the municipal
drama during the coming winter.

After nearly twenty years of fight-
ing financial and other difficulties the
work of Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Ben
Greet and other enthusiasts is beginning
to have its effect. When they com-
menced providing Shakespeare and op-
era at the old Victoria Music Hall
twenty-two years ago the managers of
London's theatres considered it impos-
sible to give Shakespearean seasons with
any hope of profit. They had tried, and
in practically every case the result was
a drain on the bank account.

The pioneers had greater faith. They
catered for a new public, the common
man. Opening the "Old Vic" for three
months each week they gave perfor-
mances of Shakespeare's plays on one
night, an opera another, and on Satur-
day evenings they provided vaudeville
of a good standard. The prices of ad-
mission were from 4 cents to 15 cents,
and for several years these were the
mainstay.

Slowly and surely these pioneers edu-
cated their audience to appreciate good
acting and good music, and in course of
time they found it necessary to extend
their activities to other districts. They
toured with their companies in the pub-
lic halls of the other parts of London
with great success.

Now several municipal authorities are
thinking of having their own local
seasons.

Battersea Borough Council is arrang-
ing with Miss Lena Ashwell to have
dramatic performances in their Town
Hall every Thursday evening from the
middle of October to the end of March.
The Camberwell Borough Council has
approved the finance committee's report
in favor of providing repertoire com-
panies with a suitable hall, and the
Mayor has obtained the use of the
Baths Hall on Thursdays at a nominal
fee. Fulham and Southwark are in-
vestigating similar schemes.

The idea is that repertoire companies
should be formed and should give a per-
formance of Shakespearean plays or
good modern comedies on each night
throughout the week in the various town
halls in London. Miss Ashwell has held
a conference with London Mayors on
the subject, and it may be expected that
many boroughs will take up the scheme.

BELGIANS PURCHASE SCOTCH COAL WASTE

Shale Being Sold for Manu-
facture into Briquettes.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN and
NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—The scar on the
Scottish landscape, the pit dump, is being
turned into gold. The Coal Commission
has withdrawn his objection to the ex-
port from Scotland of the carbonaceous
shale that largely composes the waste
heap of the collieries.

Belgian firms are offering as much as
\$11 a ton for this so-called rubbish.
They work it up with tar from coke
ovens and sell it as briquettes and patent
fuel.

Scotland has little coking coal and
waste, and therefore does not treat the
pithead waste itself. The reason that
the waste is not sent to the Dur-
ham and Yorkshire coal fields for treat-
ment is due to the fact that shipment
of the rubbish to the Rhine is cheaper
than rail transit to the more southern
countries. At the same time there are
few or no works available for treating
the shale, and no enterprising manu-
facturer has so far considered the erection
of a plant for dealing with the bri-
quette waste.

The annual cygnet dinner of the
Vintners' Company is a great event.
Minstrels playing upon flutes, clarinets
and bassoons accompany the Swan
Warden in stately procession to the
master of the ancient company, who
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hallowed receipt of custom, the table
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Lord's Prayer as follows:

Our Father in Heaven,
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May what You want be brought about,
In this world as in Heaven.

Give us to-day
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Vefours merely adds another instance
to the steadily growing list of historic
sites which are being occupied by
financial firms.

BIG SALES OF GEMS MADE IN STREETS

Shabby Looking Men Carry
Great Wealth in London's
Open Air Market.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN and
NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—Go into Hatton
Garden any time between 10 and 4, ex-
cept Saturdays and Sundays, and you
will meet men carrying in the aggregate
anything from half a million to a mil-
lion pounds' worth of diamonds.

These men are dealers in diamonds
and their market is provided by the
doorways and pavements of Hatton
Garden and another thoroughfare,
Charles street, which runs at right an-
gles to it and parallel with Holborn,
London.

Looking at many of the men, you
would not think they were worth a
dime. Nearly all are Russians. Many
have long, shaggy beards and longer
and shaggy overcoats. Yet in honesty
they must contribute to the income tax.
They buy and sell parcels of dia-
monds, loose diamonds wrapped in white
tissue paper and of a wondrous lustre.
One habitue never has less than \$250,000
worth in his pockets.

Business is conducted on simple lines.
One man approaches another. They
stand on the curb or in a doorway and
a parcel of gems is exchanged for a
roll of bank notes. That is all. No
questions, no entries, no books. A par-
cel may change hands three or four
times a day, with a big profit on each
transaction.

Dealers in "the Garden," as they call
it, trust no one implicitly in busi-
ness. It would be useless for one to
ask another for the loan of \$50. That is
not business. But ask for a parcel of
\$50,000 worth of diamonds for a probable
customer, and it is handed over readily
enough.

Stories diamonds find their way into
the Garden, but not by direct means.
They go through so many hands that
by the time they reach the Garden the
purchase is an ordinary trade transac-
tion, and it is almost impossible to trace
them back to the thief.

The dealers are experts. From hun-
dreds of stones they readily pick out
those cut in Amsterdam. The Dutch
cutters are the best in the world.
Light yellow (or Cape) diamonds can
be made into bluish-white stones like
the finest Kimberley or Brazilian
gems by the mere process of dipping
them in hot water tinged with blue.
Thus treated, they will keep their false
face for a long time. But do not try to
deceive the street dealers. They know.

The majority of these street mer-
chants are teetotalers, accomplished
chess players and fond of a gamble. At
the end of the day they deposit their
previous diamonds and notes in safe
custody and go to their unpretentious
living homes.

KING'S HERDSMEN COUNT HIS SWANS

Relic of Medieval Romanti-
cism Is Seen Along
the Thames.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN and
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LONDON, Aug. 18.—"Swan-upping" has
begun on the Thames. From Southwark
Bridge six boats, carrying men garbed
in parti-colored jackets, set out to mark
the cygnets hatched during the spring.

They were the swan herdsman of the
King, distinguishable by their red jer-
seys, and also of the Dyers' and Vint-
ners' Companies, the latter wearing
striped jackets. There were three men
in each boat. There was neither pomp
nor circumstance as they started off, yet
the whole ceremony was indicative of
medieval romanticism.

The marking or "upping," as it is
technically called, is acted by cutting
the upper mandible of the bird. Royal
birds are marked with two diamonds,
those of the Vintners' Company with
two small ticks on either side of the
diamond, and on birds belonging to the
Dyers' Company one tick on the right
side is cut. The markers also take
count of all swans on the river and
mark the clipped birds which have
reached maturity. These are held to
be King's property.

As long ago as the reign of Edward
IV, no private citizen was allowed to
keep swans, which were held to be royal
birds, who did not possess a freehold
of a certain value. As a mark of favor
the King sometimes granted to an in-
dividual or a corporation "a game of
swans," and with it the right to keep
a swan mark. It was in this way that
the two ancient companies interested in
the "upping" to-day became possessed
of their privilege.

The number of grown birds main-
tained on the river is about 550, to-
gether with cygnets, the total being
limited to 610, of which sixty-five are
allowed to the Dyers and forty-five to
the Vintners.

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BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS.

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New Store Hours:
Beginning Wednesday,
Sept. 1st, 9 to 5:30.
Open All Day Saturdays

ABRAHAM AND STRAUS, Inc

BROOKLYN

The A. & S. Crossway connects the downtown platform of the Hoyt street subway with the elevator in the East Building, thus making it possible for our patrons using the Nostrand avenue and Eastern Parkway extension trains to enter The Store Accommodating without ascending to Fulton street. Patrons from Manhattan, using Lexington or Seventh avenue trains, can enter direct from our private entrance at Hoyt street.

The September Sale— China-Cut Glass-Lamps

Generous in Its Offerings---at 10 to 50% Savings---of Fine Wares

If we had not started preparations, in some cases as much as 18 months ago, for this Sale, this story wouldn't have been written.

That is, as far as the splendid savings it announces are concerned. Without going into the economic conditions, we will merely say that prices of china and glass are still going up. It is the same in France, in

3,000 Dinner Sets—American, English, French, Japanese
\$22,000 worth of fine, brilliant, clear-ringing Cut Glass
4,500 pieces of rich, gold-encrusted Glass

Prices, as customary with A. & S., with its long-time predominance as a distributor of china and glassware, are LOWEST IN THE CITY, for the quality and desirability of the wares.

American Porcelain Dinner Sets at Noteworthy Reductions

50-PIECE SETS, \$7.49
Reduced from \$11.95. Floral decoration on
fancy shape.

50-PIECE SETS, \$8.95
Reduced from \$12.95. Delicate floral spray de-
sign on fancy shape. Each piece gold lined.

52-PIECE SETS, \$9.25
Reduced from \$13.95. Pretty blue floral spray
design on plain shape. Open stock pattern. Each
piece gold lined.

60-PIECE SETS, \$16.75
Reduced from \$22.95. Wide conventional border
and gold design.

52-PIECE SETS, \$10.75
Reduced from \$15.75. Neat border design.
Plain shape. Gold lined.

60-PIECE SETS, \$17.50
Reduced from \$24.50. Several dainty conven-
tional border designs. Gold lined. Handles covered
in coin gold.

100-PIECE SETS, \$18.50
Reduced from \$25.00. Two delicate floral spray
designs; one an open stock pattern. Each piece
gold lined.

50-PIECE JAPANESE SETS, \$20.50
Reduced from \$29.50. White blue border on
thin white china. Extra pieces can be added, if
desired.

60-PIECE
JAPANESE CHINA SETS, \$17.50
Reduced from \$22.75. Border design. Handles
traced in gold.

100-PIECE
LIMOGES CHINA SETS, \$69.75
Reduced from \$85.00. Conventional border de-
sign. Handles covered in coin gold.

100-PIECE
LIMOGES CHINA SETS, \$45.00
Reduced from \$55.00. Floral spray design.
Plain shape. Handles covered in coin gold.

108-PIECE THEO. HAVILAND
CHINA SETS, \$117.50
Reduced from \$145.00. Coin gold band and line
design. Plain shape. Handles covered in coin gold.

100-PIECE THEO. HAVILAND
CHINA SETS, \$157.50
Reduced from \$195.00. Coin gold band